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Royal Botanic Gardens
Melbourne

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From the Editor's Desk

Gary Backhouse shares another one of his extensive orchid excursions with us. This time Gary and wife Judy visited Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. They were welcomed with literally hundreds of flowering native orchids in the wild. Gary gives us a pictorial report on many of the different terrestrial orchids they encountered on their travels. In a following issue Gary gives us a synopsis on the Bee Orchids from the Genus *Ophrys*.

Kevin Butler provides the results of the 2010 SAGE Cymbidium seedling of the year award, which is conducted through the Australian Cymbidium Society. This is conducted between the three state societies under the ACS umbrella, being Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. It is always nice to see some of the new seedlings being flowered throughout parts of the country.

Congratulations to my good friend Dr. Mark Clements who was recently presented with the Award of Honour from the Australian Orchid Foundation. Mark has been one of the icons of Australian orchidology for many years, and has shown passion, determination and much forward thinking throughout a hobby and science that developed into a profession. Mark is one of our most knowledgeable experts on Australasian orchids and has always been very willing to discuss contentious issues and share information with colleagues.

The 19th Australian Orchid Council (AOC) Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia from 11th to 16th September 2012. The list of knowledgeable and respected international guest speakers shapes up as one of the finest gatherings of presenters ever at an AOC Conference. I know many of these world-class speakers personally and can promise that attendees will not be disappointed, but will leave energised and inspired with a wealth of valuable information. What's more, the West Australians really know how to put on a good conference, and the local wildflowers and native orchids will be amazing and worth the trip alone.

Some of the confirmed speakers include Terry Root of the Orchid Zone, USA (*Paphiopedilums*), Roy Tokunaga of H&R Orchids, Hawaii, USA (expert breeder over a range of orchid genera), Johan Hermans of UK, (expert on *Angraecoid* Orchids), Robert Fuchs and Mike Coronado of R.F Orchids, Florida, USA (world leaders in the Vandaceous alliance, and great guys!), Dr. Henry Oakeley, UK, (*Lycastes* and related genera), Ivan Portilla of Ecuagenera Orchids, Ecuador and Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids, Vista, California (*Catasetums* and compact *Cattleyas*).

For more information, visit the website at: www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

I know we all have been moved and distressed by the images following the terrible earthquake that struck Christchurch in New Zealand, followed by the great earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit northern Japan. Our thoughts go out to all those affected by these natural disasters and their families.

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



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Cover Shot

Orchis italica is a unique species photographed *in situ* in Crete by Gary Backhouse.

Read Gary's account of these Mediterranean terrestrial orchids in the photographic essay featured in this issue.



Spring in Spili – Tales from an Orchid Trip to Crete

Text and photos by Gary Backhouse



Author in a field
of *Orchis italica*
Spili



Above: Orchid habitat limestone rock and shrub slope, Minoan Peak

I have had the good fortune to travel to some of the great orchid areas of the world, but had never been to Europe. It was the last major regional orchid flora for me to see, so in April 2010 my wife Judy and I visited Crete to see some of the European terrestrial orchids in the field.

Upon leaving the capital Heraklion in our rented car, it wasn't long before we found our first terrestrial orchids in amongst the wildflowers. Wild orchids proved to be reasonably common, especially on the rocky hillsides, where the rocks and spiny bushes provided some protection from the herds of sheep and goats but some pain for the determined orchid enthusiast. Old olive groves were also productive areas for wildflowers and orchids, especially species of *Serapias* which were often common in the grassy strips between the rows of trees. The countryside is dotted with many small chapels that often had a small field fenced to exclude stock, and these areas were also rich in orchids and other wildflowers. In addition to the wonderful orchids, there were also many wildflowers to see, such as poppies, tulips and buttercups. Probably the most dramatic was the Dragon Arum *Dracunculus vulgaris* with its large purple-black, foul-smelling flowers, while the stunning

white *Peoniae clusei* was a memorable sight high in the mountains of western Crete.

The most famous area for orchids on Crete (and apparently one of the best in Europe) is the Gious Kambos area near Spili, with its mountains, valleys and plateaus. This fabulous area is well-known not only for orchids but for its fields of poppies, tulips and other wildflowers. We found 27 species of orchids in flower in a day scrambling over the rocky slopes and through the valleys of this region. The variety of pink/purple *Orchis*-type flowers is just bewildering for the first time visitor. In some areas there were literally fields of purple, with *Anacamptis boryi*, *Anacamptis laxiflora* and *Anacamptis pyramidalis* in flower, mixed in with *Orchis anatolica*, *Orchis italica* and *Orchis sitiaca*. Scattered amongst these larger showier orchids were the smaller duller flowers of *Neotinea lactea*, *Neotinea maculata* with its tiny flowers and *Neotinea tridentata*, with its crowded untidy head of flowers often pointing in more or less the one direction. The tiny flowered *Orchis quadripunctata* was a common plant on the limestone peaks of the region, and elsewhere on Crete.



Above: *Anacamptis boryi* and *Orchis italica* (pink) Spili

A departure from the standard pink/purple *Anacamptis* and *Orchis* species was provided by the delightful buttercup yellow flowers of *Orchis pauciflora*, growing in profusion on damp, sheltered hillsides. We revisited the Spili area 10 days after the first visit, and the beautiful butterfly orchid *Anacamptis papilionacea* was just coming into flower, as most of the other orchids were past their peak and finishing. On Crete there are two subspecies: *alibertis* which has few, reddish flowers; and *heroica* with larger, more numerous pink-purple flowers. An unusual orchid is the leafless, mycotrophic *Limodorum arbortivum* which has tall spikes of flowers but is apparently largely self-pollinating and only one or two flowers are open at a time. This species was growing in native dwarf oak forest and also in an old planted pine forest.

There are five species of *Serapias* on Crete, all of which have reddish tubular flowers, and are apparently pollinated by bees that rest inside the flowers at night. *Serapias bergonii* is the most widespread and frequently encountered species, while *S. lingua*, a species in cultivation in Australia, is common in

the foothills and mountains. Also commonly encountered was *Serapias orientalis* with its large, crowded flowers and a very bristly labellum. *Serapias cordigera* flowers several weeks later than the other species, and was just coming into flower at the end of our trip. This is a distinctive species in which the labellum mid-lobe is much broader than the tube formed by the side-lobes. The most problematic *Serapias* to identify is *S. parviflora*, which has small, self-pollinating flowers, and is best identified by the distinctly swollen ovaries at time of flowering.

There hardly seems to be a group of orchids anywhere in the world not affected by recent taxonomic changes, and the European orchids are no exception. A number of species formerly in *Orchis* have been transferred to *Anacamptis*, the strange little *Aceras anthropomorphum* is now apparently *Orchis anthropomorpha*, while the aptly named Giant Orchid *Barlia robertiana* is now *Himantoglossum robertianum*.

Crete is a very easy, pleasant place in which to travel around. There are wonderful views around the coast and mountains, quaint little villages with

narrow streets barely wide enough to navigate a car through, a countryside dotted with many small chapels, and a rich cultural history of civilisation dating back to the Minoans some 5,000 years ago. One word of caution though, the habitat over much of Crete is often very rocky and the vegetation is wickedly spiny. Strong boots, thick trousers or gaiters and knee and elbow pads for kneeling on the very rocky ground are required to protect against the spiny plants and jagged limestone rocks, especially if you are kneeling to take photos. We finished our trip to Greece with a few days being tourists on the island of Santorini, with its classic whitewashed towns perched high on the volcanic caldera cliffs overlooking the Aegean Sea. In one small patch of native vegetation, the pretty little *Anacamptis sancta* was in flower. The second part of this story will be about the fabulous bee orchids (genus *Ophrys*) of Crete.

Gary Backhouse
 Greensborough, Victoria
 Email: outbackorchids@hotmail.com



Anacamptis boryi
Spili

Anacamptis collina
Minoan Peak





Anacamptis fragrans
Gournes

Anacamptis laxiflora
Viglotopi



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Anacamptis pyramidalis
Triopetra



A close-up photograph of a flowering plant. The image shows several flowers and buds. The flowers are a vibrant pinkish-purple color with dark, vertical stripes. The buds are a darker, more saturated purple. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the petals and the sharp edges of the buds.

Anacamptis papilionacea
ssp. *alibertis*
Mourne



Anacamptis papilionacea
ssp. *heroica*
Viglotopi



Above: *Anacamptis sancta*
Santorini



Right: *Himantoglossum robertianum*
Spili



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Spili

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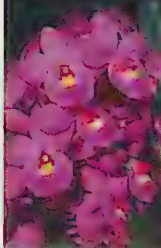
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Neotinea maculata
Spili



Neotinea tridentata
Omalos



Above:
Judy Backhouse
and the wildflower
Peoniae clusei
Pachnes Mountain



Left:
Orchis anatolica
Spili

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anthropophorum
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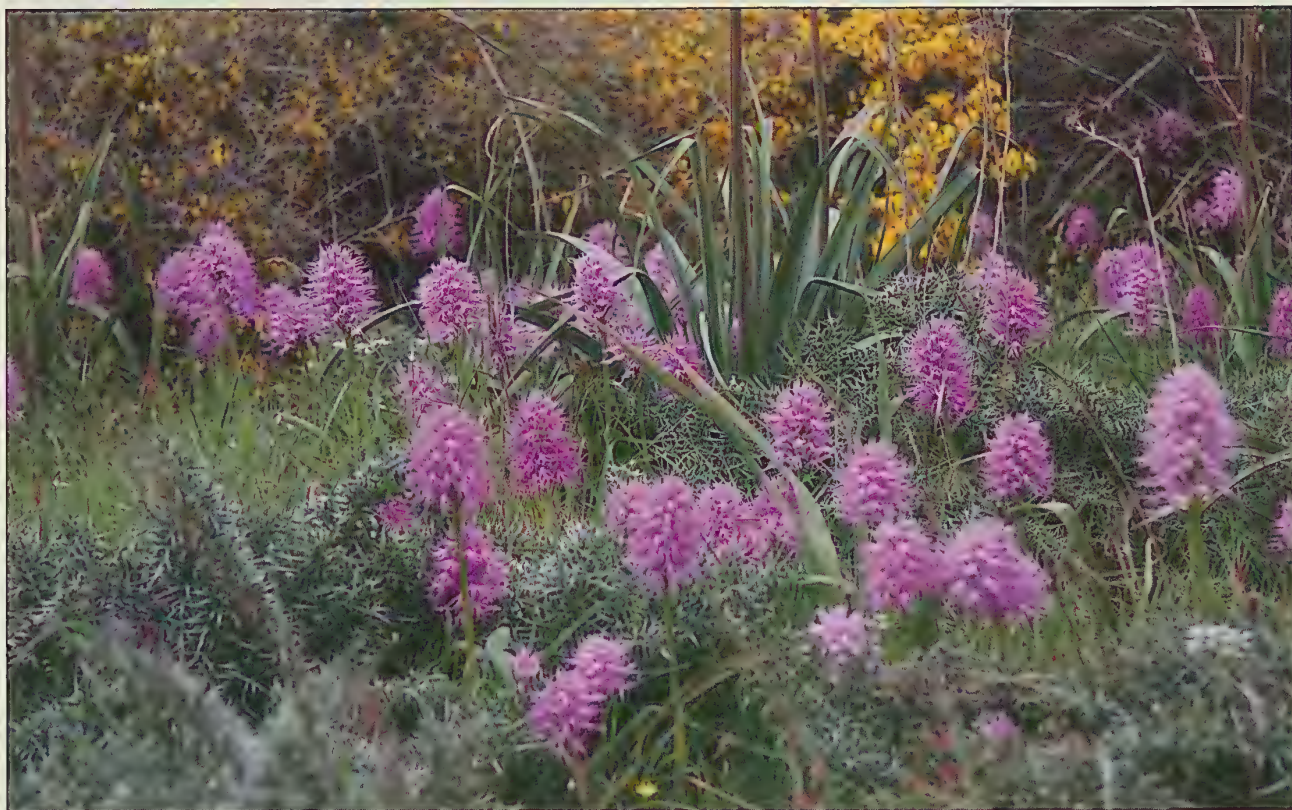
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Orchis italica
Spili





Above: *Orchis italica* Spili surrounded by very spiny plants!

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Orchis simia
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CYMBIDIUM CULTURE



Cymbidiums are what most people first think of as orchids. This genus is easy to grow and very popular in cooler, temperate climates of New South Wales and the southern states.

Shade is necessary from hot sun. A shade or bush house covered with 50% shade is ideal. Alternatively, dappled shade from a tree or other plants will suffice. Cymbidiums need plenty of filtered sun to flower well. These orchids will grow well, but rarely flower in full shade. If you don't have a greenhouse, it may be necessary to move the pot from more sun in Winter to a shadier spot in Summer. If you wish to plant cymbidiums in a garden, provide dappled shade or an easterly aspect. Never cover the roots with heavy soil or clay, rather place the plant on top of the soil and mound around it with cymbidium compost.

Temperature. Happy to grow in a wide range of temperatures, cymbidiums will tolerate light frost as long as buds are protected. At the other end of the scale, very hot days are tolerated but plants will benefit from a substantial overnight drop in temperature. This drop in temperature will help initiate flower stems.

Watering. Cymbidiums like to stay damp but not wet. To achieve this plants may need to be watered daily during hot, dry weather. Watering in the late afternoon/ evening will also help chill the plants. In winter, watering weekly should suffice.

Compost needs to be well aerated and free draining, but still remain damp for a reasonable period. Most cymbidium compost available from specialist nurseries is ideal, beware of generic brands from supermarkets. These are often of inferior quality. Graded and washed Coconut Husk Chip, such as OrchidMate is a popular media amongst orchid growers. OrchidMate is prewashed and graded; just soak for a few hours & it is ready to use. Treated pine bark or a perlite based mix is also popular.

Repotting. Cymbidiums are best repotted during the cooler months, or if they are flowering, as soon as possible after flowering. To avoid stress to the plants, do not repot during summer. If dividing plants, make sure at least 3-4 bulbs are left together. Never reuse compost, and sterilise tools and preused pots with bleach or a sugar soap concentrate. After dividing, place plants in a shady area for a few weeks and water sparingly.

Fertiliser. Most effective is water soluble fertiliser. Use a formula recommended for flowering plants. This can be applied every watering at quarter strength or at recommended strength every third watering. A little slow release fertiliser is OK, but must be buried in the pot.

Pests & Disease. Red spider or spidermite is troublesome in summer, especially in warmer climates. Control with miticide, Pest Oil or predatory mites. Scale is easily controlled by Rogor or Pest Oil. Some disease is prevalent in warm, wet weather. Black spots on leaves is easily controlled by spraying with Mancozeb or lime water. Bulb rot can be prevented by using Yates Anti Rot. Always use at manufacturers recommended levels, if in doubt seek advice from a nursery or experienced grower.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID CULTURE

DENDROBIUM & SARCOCHILUS

The popularity of Australian Native Orchids has grown dramatically in recent years. New cultivars have provided growers with a broader range of colours and styles that are easy to grow and flower.

Environment. Found growing wild in most areas on the east coast of Australia it is easy to provide suitable conditions in this area. Dendrobiums prefer bright filtered light, 50%- 70% shadecloth is ideal, or a tree or similar screen allowing dappled sunlight is perfect. Sarcochilus are usually found in heavier shade areas, about 90% shade and somewhat higher humidity than dendrobiums is beneficial.

Temperature. New South Wales coastal temperatures are OK, good air movement is important, especially during very hot or cold periods so natural air flow should not be impeded. Sarcochilus enjoy temperatures up to 30 degrees, over this try to minimise maximum temperatures, by providing more shade or air movement.

Watering. Perfect drainage is very important, many Australian Native Orchids grow on trees and dry off quickly after rain. Water thoroughly then allow plants to dry out completely before rewatering. Water regularly in summer, sparingly in winter. If you receive regular winter rain, a solid roof over plants may be necessary to control watering in cold weather.

Compost must be free draining. OrchidMate Coconut Husk Chips or treated pine bark is ideal. Some growers like to add 10% coarse perlite, gravel or styrene to the mix. As a guide, use medium chips in 100mm pots, large chips in 150mm pots & extra large chips in 200mm pots or bigger. If established in the garden, a gravel bed under the plant will help with drainage, or attach firmly to a tree or rock and tie a pad of coconut fibre or similar over the root mass.

Repotting. Dendrobiums are best done soon after flowering, at the beginning of the growing season. We leave Sarcochilus till March/April after the worst of the hot weather has past. Sarc's grow all year, but experience most growth in this area during Autumn/Winter. Ensure pots have adequate drainage and are just big enough to contain the root system of the plant to be potted.

Fertilise regularly, especially during the growing season, using a soluble fertiliser for flowering plants, low in nitrogen and high in potassium. Plants will benefit from an occasional dusting with Dolomite.

Pests & Disease. Generally hardy and resilient, Australian Native Dendrobiums and Sarcochilus can sometimes be attacked by scale, aphid or spidermite. Treat with a recommended insecticide such as Rogor or Pest Oil. Fungal infections are rare provided good air movement is maintained during wet weather. Use Mancozeb or lime water for leaf infections & Yates Anti Rot will prevent bulb rot. Dendrobium beetle can be a problem during the warmer months. Beetles are easily caught or spraying with Carbaryl is very effective.





PHALAEOPSIS CULTURE

Phalaenopsis are a group of plants that grow in shady, humid conditions throughout the Asian tropics and extend into northern Australia. They are arguably the most popular group of orchids grown in the world today, being particularly popular throughout the United States and Europe where they are regarded as one of the easiest orchids to grow indoors.

Temperature & Atmosphere Requirements. Phalaenopsis enjoy relatively stable temperatures. A minimum temperature of 15 degrees celsius and a maximum of 30 degrees is optimal, however plants will tolerate temps of up to 5 degrees more extreme than this for short periods. Growing these plants outdoors in New South Wales will require some artificial heating in the winter and cooling in the summer. However their requirements fall almost perfectly within the comfort zone we

enjoy inside the house. Phalaenopsis also require medium to high humidity. This can be achieved by placing the plants on a saucer of gravel, wet the gravel but be sure the base of the pot is above the water level. As the water evaporates, adequate humidity will be provided. Alternatively, mist the plants daily.

Light. Phalaenopsis enjoy low light and must be protected from direct, unfiltered sunlight. Outdoors sufficient shade so that on a sunny day a barely discernable shadow is cast is ideal. Indoors a brightly lit room out of direct sun is suitable.

Watering & Fertilising. One of the secrets of growing Phallies is to keep the roots just damp but the leaves as dry as possible. This means that the compost should be allowed to nearly dry out before watering. After watering dry the leaves off as quickly as possible, especially any water laying in the crown of the plant where the leaves join. To help this avoid watering the leaves, or place the plants in a breezy spot for an hour or two after watering, even removing excess water from the leaves with a tissue will serve the purpose.

Fertilise with a recommended soluble orchid fertiliser at quarter strength every watering or at half strength every second watering. A complete fertiliser low in nitrogen is ideal, use this formula all year round.

Potting, Pests & Diseases. Keep plants in as small a pot as possible, a few roots growing out of the pot will not harm the plant and is not necessarily a reason to pot up the plant. Use a coarse, free draining mix. Some growers prefer sphagnum moss, use long strand grade and replace annually. Apart from crown rot which can be avoided by careful watering, Phalaenopsis can suffer attack from Mealy Bugs. These appear as small furry white pests, usually under the leaves. They can be sprayed with Pyrethrum or a chemical insecticide, Pest Oil or wet them with equal parts of Metholated spirits and water using a cotton bud or small cloth.

Phalaenopsis are very rewarding plants to grow and flowers last up to 12 weeks. When flowers have withered, cut the flower stem off between the third and fourth notch from the base. The old stem will then shoot and flower a second time. Mature plants will flower twice each year so flowering can be achieved for up to half the year. Flowers are available in white, pink or yellow or with variations of spotting or veining on these backgrounds.

CATTLEYA CULTURE

Pronounced KAT-lee-uh, this group of orchids originate from a large area of tropical and sub-tropical America. They occur in many sizes, shapes and colours but are best known for their large flamboyant bloom. Most grow as epiphytes, or air plants. They have large pseudobulbs used to store water and have thick, fleshy roots that have the ability to collect moisture from the air.

Light is important for good flowering. About 50% is optimal, however if leaves overheat in summer this may need to be increased to 70%. Leaves should be medium green colour and pseudobulbs rigid and erect without staking. Excessive shading will reduce flowering dramatically and lead to soft, floppy growths.



Temperature should range between a minimum of 5-7 degrees in winter to a maximum of about 30-35 degrees in summer. I suggest you avoid watering if the temperature falls below 10 degrees. Small plants need to be protected from temperature extremes. High day temperatures, up to 35 degrees can be tolerated if humidity, air circulation and shading are increased.

Water can be provided in two ways, in the pot by watering and in the air by humidity. For a plant growing in good open media, watering twice each week in Summer and once a week in winter is sufficient. In summer avoid watering during the heat of the day, in Winter only water on a bright sunny morning. The root system on these plants can easily be damaged by excess water. If in doubt, defer watering.

Humidity is important to Cattleyas as roots prefer to grow in humid air rather than to be wet. Humidity needs to range from 50% to 80%, about 60% is ideal. In Winter watering can be delayed by wetting the greenhouse floor and circulating air around the plants. This technique can also help to cool the plants in Summer. If you live in a Southern Winter rainfall area, it may be necessary to grow your cattleyas under a solid cover so watering can be controlled during Winter.

Fertilise with a complete balanced NPK fertiliser for flowering plants. Apply fertiliser with the water every second watering.

Pots & Medium. Pots should be shallow, ie no deeper than they are wide and should have plenty of holes to allow perfect drainage. Media needs to be coarse and long lasting. OrchidMate Coconut Husk Chips is ideal. Treated pine bark is also popular. As a guide, use medium grade (10mm) in 100mm pots, large grade (15mm) in 150mm pots & extra large grade (20mm) in 200mm pots or larger.

Pests & Disease. Cattleyas, apart from root rot caused by overwatering, can be attacked by pests such as scale and mealy bug. Check under dead bracks on old bulbs for hidden scale. This is easily controlled by Rogor or Pest Oil. Slugs and snails love fresh root tips, as do cockroaches, so check for these pests if root tips are being damaged. Hanging plants or growing on mesh benches can help, but snail bait may be necessary.

PAPHIOPEDILUM (SLIPPER ORCHIDS) CULTURE

Paphiopedilums, more commonly known as Slipper Orchids, are shade loving plants from areas throughout Asia where they usually grow amongst rocks, moss and leaf litter in damp but well drained positions. Blooms are long lasting and are available in a range of colours. There are three main styles of flowers, popular amongst growers. These are the complex hybrids which have large round flowers with broad segments and bloom during the winter. The second group are the maudiae types which have attractive tessilated leaves and smaller flowers. The third group are the multiflorals, sometimes with 4 or 5 flowers on a stem. They have long strap like green leaves and are the slowest to grow.



Temperature & Light. Protection from frosts is necessary, especially for the maudiae and multifloral types, otherwise slippers are tolerant of a broad range of temperatures. Slippers thrive in conditions soft ferns such as maidenhair enjoy. The multiflora group will enjoy a little brighter light than the other two groups.

Watering & Fertilising. Watering should be sufficient to keep the root system just damp. It is important to avoid over watering even short dry periods are OK. The root system on Paphs can be easily damaged if the potting medium is old or the plants are overwatered. As a guide, water twice a week in Summer and once a week in Winter, depending on the weather of course. It is best to water during the morning in Winter and evenings during Summer. Try to avoid water laying on the leaves for lengthy periods. Include a balanced (flowering formula) fertiliser into the water at half the recommended strength, every second watering. A dusting of Dolomite occasionally will add calcium and help keep the media sweet.

Potting. A standard pot just big enough to contain the root system is adequate. Use a mix of large grade OrchidMate Cocomu Husk Chips or pine bark with added perlite, styrene or charcoal. Media must be coarse enough to allow good drainage but still remain damp for a few days. As a guide, in a 150mm pot use 10-15mm bark.

Pests & Disease. Slippers appear resistant to orchid virus. Fungus can develop on the leaves or in the leaf axils, usually due to overwatering. Mealy bug can sometimes attack leaves and roots but is easily controlled with Rogor or similar. These plants are relatively pest free.

Paphiopedilums are attractive plants with curious and long lasting flowers. They are very rewarding to grow in a shady, moist environment.

ONCIDIUM CULTURE



This diverse group originate in South America. Some species are tropical, but most prefer sub-tropical or temperate climates. These epiphytic orchids need perfect drainage, so a pot with free drainage mix or a mount such as tree fern slabs or cork bark is ideal. Medium to heavy shade is preferred, many of the softer leaf varieties are susceptible to leaf spotting if given too much light. Include a soluble fertiliser, recommended for flowering plants, with every second or third watering all year round. Water regularly whilst growth is active, then water sparingly after growth has matured.

SOFTCANE (NOBILE TYPE) DENDROBIUMS

Softcane, or Nobile type Dendrobiums grow naturally in Northern India & Thailand at elevations up to 1500 metres in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains.

Temperature These species and their hybrids are hardy plants that will tolerate temperatures from 3 degrees centigrade to temperatures in the high thirties. They are easy plants to grow providing some basic rules are followed.

Watering & Fertilising. To grow softcane dendrobiums well, different seasonal treatment is required. After flowering in October increase watering & gradually increase fertiliser. Soluble 'flower-booster' fertiliser at recommended strength is preferred. By November when growths are 100mm or more high, water plants every second day and include fertiliser at least once per week. Maintain this treatment until new growths are nearly mature, say February or March. Reduce water & fertiliser so that by April, plants are receiving no nitrogen fertiliser at all. Water sparingly, just enough to prevent bulbs from shrivelling, until plants flower in Spring.

Compost. Plants should be grown in a well drained medium. Pots should be as small as possible and avoid over potting. Repot soon after flowering and before new growth starts to develop roots. Cover the plants with 30-50% shade in Summer to prevent burn to new growths, however, flowering will be enhanced if plants are given full or near full sun during Winter.

Softcane dendrobiums are easy orchids to grow provided they are given plenty of water & fertiliser in Summer, with no nitrogen fertiliser, little water & plenty of light during Winter.



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COELOGYNE CULTURE

Coelogyne is a large diverse group of about 200 orchids of Asian origin. Most of the members of this showy genus of epiphytes and lithophytes have white or green flowers, with contrasting labellums displaying many brown markings.

Coelogyne are generally plants from mountainous regions and about 80 percent of the species are suitable for cultivating in cool to intermediate conditions. However there are also species from the monsoonal, tropical lowlands which are generally very easy to grow and will rapidly build into specimen plants if the conditions are favorable.

Most species are grown in pots with a bark-based mix, however those with pendulous flower spikes, or rampant growers with long rhizomes, are best accommodated in baskets. As a bonus, several species have pleasantly fragrant blooms.



They appreciate being watered once a week during the cooler months, up to every two or three days during warm weather. Best species for beginners include *C. fimbriata*, *C. ovalis*, *C. flaccida*, *C. cristata*, *C. tomentosa* (syn *C. massangeana*) and *C. lactea*. Some of the best hybrids include *C. Jannine Banks* (*flaccida* x *mooreana*), *C. Linda Buckley* (*mooreana* x *cristata*) and *C. Unchained Melody* (*cristata* x *flaccida*).

If you would like some hints on growing orchids - not included here, please contact us. If you are having difficulty identifying a plant, we can help. Just email or post a photo of the plant and flower.

Notes are intended as a guide only. For further information contact the Nursery.

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Eria globifera

Text and photos by Jim Cootes

It is always nice to go out into the orchid house, and get a surprise with something flowering unexpectedly. This article is about such a plant.

Eria globifera is a native of Vietnam and appears to be endemic to the southern part of that country, where it grows at an elevation range from between 800 and 2,200 metres as an epiphyte. This species has been reclassified by some botanists as *Campanulorchis globifera*, yet this taxonomic treatment has yet to gain wide acceptance in horticultural circles.

My plant must have originated from the higher elevation range as it grows happily in my bushhouse in Sydney, where we get the occasional frost during the winter months. It came as a division from David Banks, who has grown his piece into a couple of large specimen plants at his home in western Sydney and at the nursery at Northmead. He also grows it potted, but suspended, in his shadehouse. David imported this plant from the USA in the late 1990s, having been given a piece from species enthusiast Walter Teague in California – who originally collected this plant.

My plant grows in a squat plastic pot with a combination of small pieces of pine bark (75%), perlite (15%) and small pebbles (10%). The roof of the bushhouse is covered with fibre glass and this prevents the plants from receiving the cold

winter rains and frost. There is 80% shade cloth on the sides and roof. It has a neat, creeping habit – often producing two new growths off the leading pseudobulb, and is a fairly fast grower. It may also be grown mounted, and prefers the moisture holding treefern over cork bark.

The plant is a neat and tidy grower, with globular pseudobulbs about 2.5 cm in diameter and a single leathery leaf about 8 cm long by 1.5 cm wide. The beautiful flowers are about 2.5 cm across the widest point, non-resupinate (labellum uppermost) and produced singly. There is no discernible perfume. The back of the flower is covered with short hairs. An interesting feature of this species is the thickened edge of the mid lobe of the labellum. The plant flowers in the early spring, and generally only does this once a year but with a flush of blooms off the recently matured pseudobulbs.

This is possibly the only introduction of this species in Australia, as all the plants I know of have been derived from David's clone. But this species would be a welcome addition to the species or miscellaneous orchid collection as plants become more readily available.

Jim Cootes
Riverwood, NSW
jecootes@ozemail.com.au



Cym. (Blazing Fury 'Hades' x
Templestowe Dream 'Shout')
Sage 2010 Winner



Cym. (Blazing Fury 'Hades' x
Templestowe Dream 'Shout')
Sage 2010 Winner

SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year 2010

by Kevin Butler

The Sage Seedling of the Year for the Australian Cymbidium Society was decided at the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide in November 2010. The state delegates being represented by Peter and Joyce Sunderland from Victoria, Peter Hall and Ben Knobben from South Australia with Helen Stretch and myself from Western Australia.

The sections being large standard, small standard, intermediate, miniature and novelty were looked at individually and the winner of each section was decided by secret ballot. These winners are placed together and an overall best from these is then decided again by secret ballot. This year, the first round of votes for Champion seedling gave us a tie, with the large standard and miniature getting equal number of votes. As the by-laws states that there can only be one winner, the champion was decided by the plant that was voted the most number of firsts and this was the large standard.

Thanks must be given to Bob Campbell from Sage Horticultural who has provided the prize money for this prestigious award from the start of the ACS being 1995.

This year the winner was Colin and Karen Gillespie from Victoria with their plant of *Cym.* (Blazing Fury 'Hades' x Templestowe Dream 'Shout'). The plant carried close to twenty flowers on one single, tall raceme with an excellent display around the stem. The quality of the flowers of award potential being a lovely pink with a contrasting, heavily

banded in red labellum. Colin Gillespie has shown again his ability to get the most out of his plants. The plant was hybridised by Greg Bryant who also produced the W.A. nomination for large standard that won Best Cymbidium at the 2010 National Australian Cymbidium Society show in Perth.

The information I received from Colin Gillespie regarding this plant was it was purchased on a trip to Sydney in 2006, when buying his annual supply of community pots from Greg Bryant. One compost of this cross was purchased with about 10-12 plants in total. Colin flowered the first plant from this compost in 2009 and was amazed that the plant on a single raceme produced 40 buds. 8 of the top buds were broken off as Colin thought it would be too many for the plant to open, especially for a first flowering seedling. The flower size was 135mm with good shape even with this large number of blooms. I was fortunate to see this plant in Colin and Karen's home when a group of us from W.A. was invited to see how Colin grows his cymbidiums. I was amazed at how tall the stem was with all the flowers. I have not heard or seen many cymbidiums prior to this one flowering, flowering with so many large flowers. What can this plant do on future flowerings with Colin's excellent growing?

The second plant out of the compost flowered in 2010 and became the Sage Winner. Colin has a few more that will flower this year. Will one of these be another Sage Winner or National Cymbidium Show winner?

I thought it would be interesting to include the photos of the parents that had made this Sage winner. I emailed Greg Bryant and he quickly found a photo of *Cym. Templestowe Dream 'Shout'* on its first flowering in 2003. I had a photo of *Cym. Blazing Fury 'Hades'* amongst my collection. Greg added some interesting comments that *Cym. Templestowe Dream 'Shout'* can carry up to 28 flowers on a very long stem from a reasonably compact growing plant. He has also flowered some seedlings of the same cross that had 32 and 29 flowers on their first flowering, also a smaller seedling had impressive, large and full shaped 19 flowers on a first flowering. What a productive cymbidium cross. I am first in line to get Greg Bryant's next release of hybrids using *Cym. Templestowe Dream 'Shout'*!

Congratulations to all the winners.

Sage Winners 2010

Overall Winner – *Cym. (Blazing Fury 'Hades' x Templestowe Dream 'Shout')*

Exhibitor Colin and Karen Gillespie

Hybridiser Greg Bryant

LARGE FLOWER

Winner – *C. (Blazing Fury 'Hades' x Templestowe Dream 'Shout')*

Exhibitor Colin and Karen Gillespie (Victoria)

Hybridiser Greg Bryant

Other Nominations;

South Australia: *C. (White Valley x Kelly's Winter)* Exhibitor Terry Honor (Hybridiser Tom Burian)

Western Australia: *C. (Red Adair x Blazing Fury) 'Eaglewood'* Exhibitor Norm and Jenny Martin (Hybridiser Greg Bryant)

SMALL STANDARD

Winner – *C. Atlantic Dawn*

Exhibitor Courtney Rogasch (WA)

Hybridiser S Thomas

Other Nominations;

Victoria: *C. (Alumination x Lunakira)* Exhibitor and hybridiser David Wain

South Australia: *C. (Wyong Flame x Alexandra Flame)* Exhibitor Ben Knobben (Hybridiser Gordon Giles)

INTERMEDIATE

Winner – *C. (Regal Fire 'Sandy Lou' x Valley Regent 'Razzamataz')*

Exhibitor Wayne Bayliss (SA)

Hybridiser Dean Roesler

Other Nominations;

Victoria: *C. (Cherry Cola x La Costa Lyric)* Exhibitor Henk Morren (Hybridiser Peter Rochfort)

Western Australia: *C. (Samantha x Dr Stanley Parkinson) 'May'* Exhibitor and hybridiser Ezi-Gro Orchids

MINIATURE

Winner – *C. (Magic Elf x Mem. Andrew Johnston) 'Gertrude'*

Exhibitor and hybridiser Ezi-Gro Orchids (WA)

Other Nominations;

Victoria: *C. (Gentle Touch x Ovation)* Exhibitor and hybridiser Andy Tran

South Australia: *C. (Sarah Jean x *canaliculatum*)* Exhibitor G & H Hime (Hybridiser Theo Paynter)

NOVELTY

Winner – *C. (Regal Fire 'Sandy Lou' x Valley Regent 'Razzamataz')*

Exhibitor Wayne Bayliss (SA)

Hybridiser Dean Roesler

Other Nominations;

Western Australia: *C. Darch Wish 'Fever'* Exhibitor and hybridiser Ezi-Gro Orchids

Kevin Butler
Darch, WA

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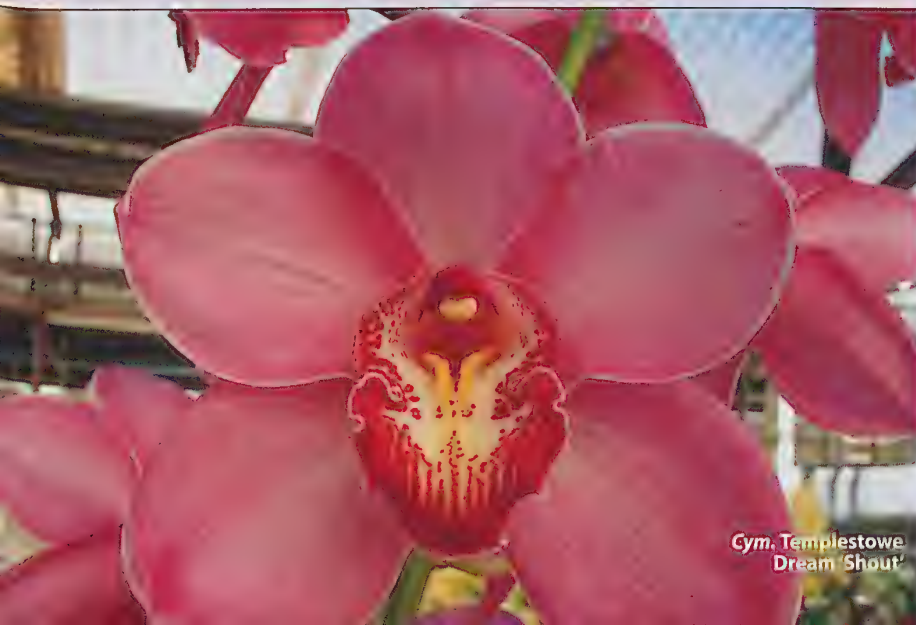
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*Cym. Templestowe
Dream 'Shout'*
(pollen parent of
2010 Sage winner)



*Cym. Templestowe
Dream 'Shout'*

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Above:
Cym. Blazing Fury
'Hades' x Templestowe
Dream 'Shout'
 (2009 seedling)



Left:
Cym. Blazing Fury
'Hades' x Templestowe
Dream 'Shout'
 (2009 seedling)

Cym. (Magic Elf x
Mem. Andrew Johnstone)
'Gertrude'





Cym. (Magic Elf x
Mem. Andrew Johnstone)
'Gertrude'

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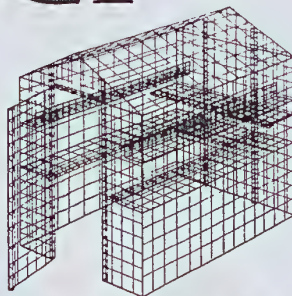
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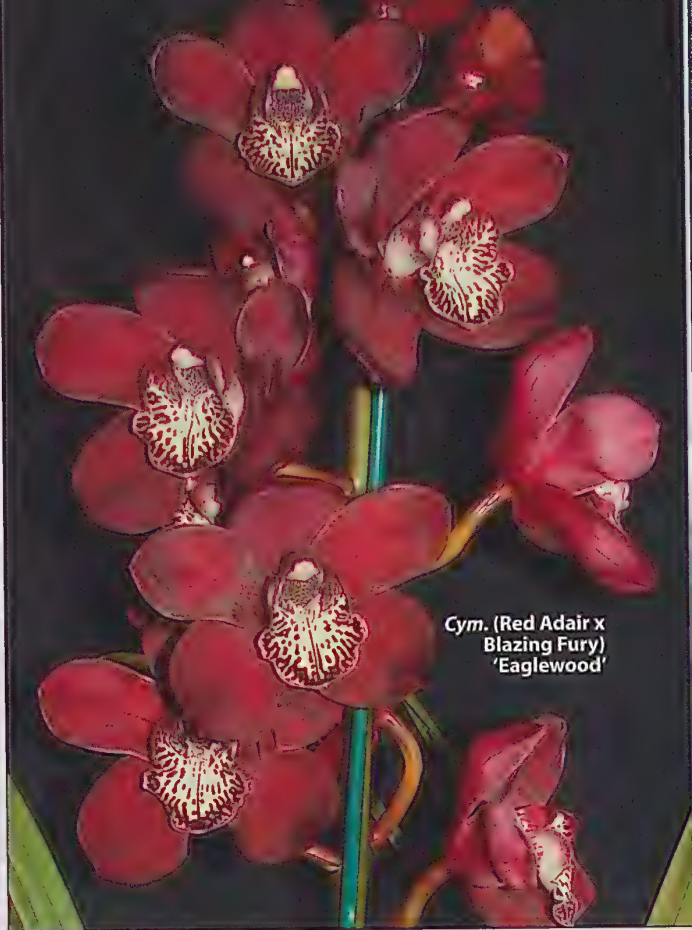
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Cym. (White Valley x Kelly's Winter)



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Cym. Atlantic Dawn

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Cym. (Alumination x
Lunikira)



Right:
Cym. (Wyong Flame x
Alexandra Flame)

Below:
Cym. (Regal Fire 'Sandy Lou' x
Valley Regent) 'Razzamataz'



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AOR 041

Cym. (Cherry Cola x
La Costa Lyric)



Cym. (Gentle Touch x
Ovation)



Right: Cym. (Samantha x
Dr. Stanley Parkinson)
'May'



Australian
Orchid
Review



**WELCOMES
EDITORIAL
CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Please ensure that all slides, photographs
and electronic files are clearly marked with
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AOR 065

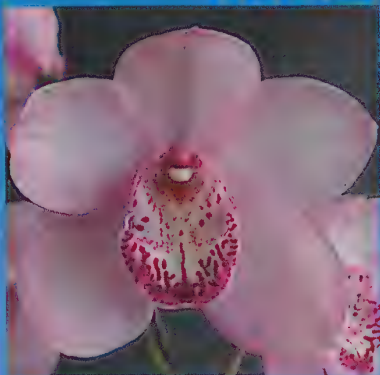


Cym. (Sarah Jean x canaliculatum)

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Above: Flowering House at Tying Shin Orchids

Tying Shin Orchids – New Directions in *Phalaenopsis*

by Dr. Graham McKay

Phalaenopsis hybrids are now available in almost every colour, which is certainly an attribute not common to all orchid genera. This is a wonderful progression from the standard whites, pinks and yellows of yesteryear. Additionally these colour forms may be influenced by pattern control genes originating in their species background genetics to produce a wonderful array of colour pattern presentations. Some of these genetic influences have occurred in the mericloneing of varieties where folding of chromosomes has caused deletion of genes such as occurred in the original harlequin *Phal.* Golden Peoker.

Hybridisers, in a commercial sense, are a very rare breed indeed. Mr Kuo-Liang Hung (Tying Shin Orchids) in Taiwan is a great example of a nursery concentrating purely on hybridising. His breeding directions cover all courses, including oranges, yellows, reds with high flower count novelty presentation, stable harlequins all colours, miniatures

including *Phal. lobbii* parentage, big lip presentations and blues. The main direction of his breeding and success (5 FCCs and 28 AMs from the AOS in 2010) is to create hybrids with branched inflorescences and multiple flowers of heavy substance that are long flowering and are sustained for several months. His Master's Degree in Horticulture and Soil Science has provided a sound basis for good culture which allows him to produce strong plants which flower impressively.

I have the honour of a close friendship with Mr Hung established over several years. He does not mericlone any of his wonderful creations and I have acquired varieties of excellence and used them in my own breeding program or to make limited numbers of stem propagations. The images show some of the breeding plants I have acquired. These photographs are self-explanatory except to say that they are exceptional varieties which provide excellent structure plants for both colour and flower count development.

Some of the mother plants he used in a recent series of crosses are shown in this article. His blue breeding is based on the BLUE clones of species *Phal. violacea*, *Phal. equestris*, *Doritis pulcherrima* and a small contribution from *Phal. lowii* namely *Dtps. Siam Treasure* (*Phal. lowii* x *Dor. pulcherrima*). This breeding clone of *Dtps. Siam Treasure* TS1-006 is unusually fertile for this variety and he has created many wonderful hybrids which he is now using in subsequent generations. At GiGi Orchids I have been flowering many beautiful clones from these crosses.

Big Lip *Phalaenopsis* is a new direction Mr Hung has been developing of recent times and his principal mother plants were *P. Yu Pin* Easter Island and *Dtps. Yu Pin* Fireworks 'GiGi' onto several different presentations. I have acquired most of his breeding directions and hold over 200 of his best crosses, (including those employing his FCC plants) and these are available through GiGi Orchids in the recent lists of available Big Lip Breeding and general breeding directions.

It is the smaller nurseries, such as Tying Shin which to which we owe much with regard to the future development of *Phalaenopsis* Orchid varieties. Larger nurseries tend to seek new varieties from these smaller nurseries, such as Tying Shin, Fushengs, Lioulin and others. May fortune favour their endeavours for many years to come.

Dr. Graham McKay
GiGi Orchids
PO Box 874

Toowong Qld 4066

Email: info@gigiorchids.com.au

Web: www.gigiorchids.com.au



Left:
Mr Kuo-Liang Hung
with *P. Tying Shin*
Forever Love
'Golden Beauty'
FCC/AOS

Below:
P. Tying Shin
Golden Age
'Warrigal'
FCC/AOS,
GM/TOGA



P. Tying Shin
Miracle
'GiGi'
AM/AOC



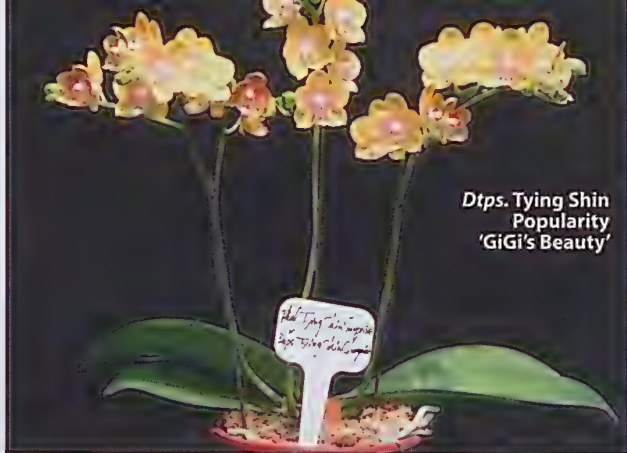
Dtps. Tying Shin
Phoenix
'GiGi'



P. Tying Shin
Golden Age
'GiGi'



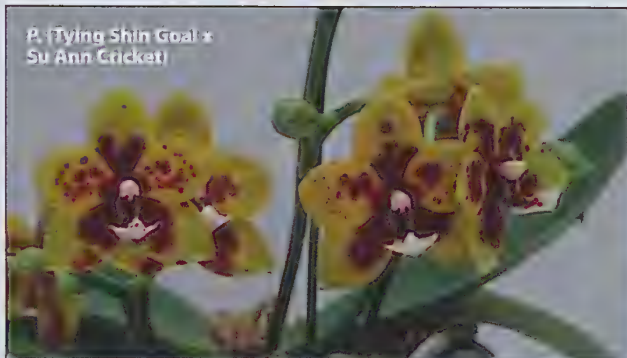
Dtps. Tying Shin
Popularity
'GiGi'
AM/AOS



Dtps. Tying Shin
Popularity
'GiGi's Beauty'



Dtps. Tying Shin
Popularity
'GiGi's Beauty'



P. (Tying Shin Goal x
Su Ann Cricket)



P. Tying Shin
Tarzan
'GiGi'



Left: *P.* Tying Shin
Golden Rose
'2012'
FCC/AOS



P. Tying Shin
Baby Smile
AM/AOS



Above: *P.* Tying Shin Forever Love
FCC/AOS



Above: *P.* Tying Shin Golden Rose
'GiGi'



Right: *Dtps.* Siam Treasure
'TS1-006'



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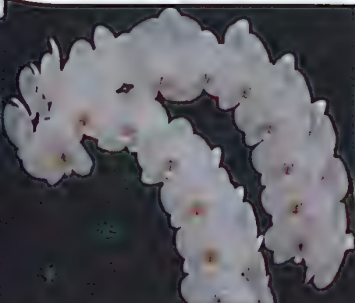
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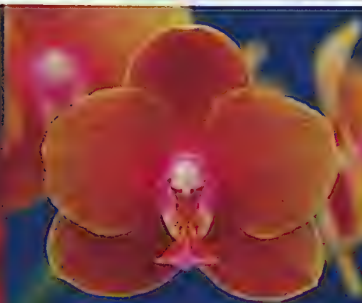
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Dtps. Liu's Triprince AM/AOS
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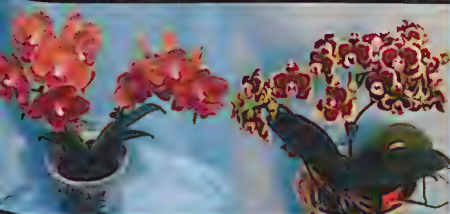
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LM62 Dtps. Lioulin
Sparrow 'LL4' \$20.00



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'LL-2' \$20.00

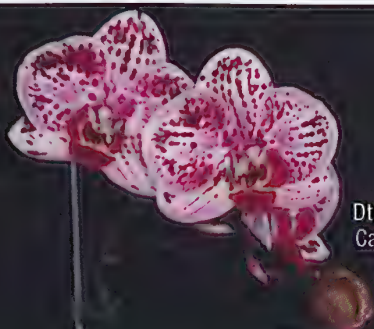


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Dtps. Taiwan Red Cat
'Red Cat' \$20.00

LM86 Dtps. Sogo Shito
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Dtps. (Ho's Little
Caroline x Chain
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Southern Record for *Phaius australis*

by David Banks



Phaius australis
'Jidaanga'
(photo: R. Clement)

For such an impressive and horticulturally attractive genus of evergreen terrestrials, there is surprisingly much confusion amongst the identity and distributions of the Australian species of *Phaius*. They are often referred to as "Swamp Orchids".

Australia has three species and one (colour/albino) variety, two of these species – *P. amboinensis* and *P. pictus* are lowland tropical plants that are seldom seen in cultivation. The other species is *P. australis*, with the yellow form known as *P. australis* var. *bernaysii* – that appears to be restricted to North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

Many will note a certain species missing from this Australian list - *Phaius tancarvilleae*. This is now widely accepted as NOT being an Australian species.

The Type specimen of the true *Phaius tancarvilleae* is from China. There is also much confusion over the spelling of this taxon, with some texts quoting *tancarvilleae*, *tankervilleae* or *tankervilleae*. I would suggest that most plants labelled as *Phaius tancarvilleae* in cultivation – at least in eastern Australia, are actually examples of *Phaius wallichii* from northern India. The late Jack Bissett had *Phaius* that he had imported from India in the 1950s that look identical to many of these so-called "native" *P. tancarvilleae* trotted out at orchid shows and meetings, and indeed match *P. wallichii*. This also accounts for why this plant has been so successful in cultivation in Australia and why it easily handles temperatures down to the frost level. *P. wallichii* is found throughout the Indian Subcontinent across to Indochina.

The biggest problem today is that most plants labelled as *Phaius tancarvilleae* in cultivation have obviously been in collections for many many years and have lost their original providence data. To the point we can't even be sure what country these clones came from originally. As they are such strong and vigorous growers, they have been divided and traded many times to have successfully spread throughout orchid-houses across this country.

So what are the true Australian plants of "*Phaius tancarvilleae*" and what do they look like? Well, they are actually *P. australis* – which has a recorded distribution from Lake Innes/Lake Cathie, New South Wales north along the coast (and Moreton Bay islands) to south of Cooktown in far north Queensland. It is generally a lowland coastal plant, yet has been recorded up to 1100m altitude (possibly Atherton Tableland and near the Barron River?).

P. australis also has significantly narrower (and more upright) foliage than the exotic pair of *P. tancarvilleae* and *P. wallichii*. It also lacks the strictly tubular cow-horn labellum seen in the exotic species.

Sadly the numbers of both viable and reliable localities and numbers of plants of *P. australis* have declined alarming due to its coastal habit of this species – which is one of the first sites cleared for housing or agriculture. I have only ever seen it *in situ* on South Stradbroke Island a couple of decades ago, and thankfully there was a very healthy population. But future sand mining could threaten these plants. *Phaius* may be confused (out of flower) with the more common *Calanthe australasica* or plants of the smaller growing *Geodorum terrestre*.

Phaius australis has always been an uncommon orchid in New South Wales, with many reported sightings fairly unreliable and not verified by herbarium specimens, photographs or live material. Also many of these reputed sightings were often some generations ago and are often third hand in translation. Recent sightings have been rare. Many of the records are restricted to the far north-east of the state, with plants recorded from Piggabeen, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay, Tintenbar, Brunswick Heads and Evans Head. There is also a verified colony of plants further south near Coffs Harbour. I would be very interested to hear of other NSW populations not mentioned above.



Right: *Phaius australis* 'Jidaanga' showing labellum detail

Phaius wallichii
(photo: D. Banks)



Below: Increased bulb size in healthy cultivated plant of *Phaius australis* 'Jidaanga'



There have been rumours for years of swamp orchids occurring at Lake Innes and Lake Cathie (south of Port Macquarie). Perhaps they still occur there, as the habitat is ideal and there is considerable vegetation still protected within the Lake Innes Nature Reserve.

A few years ago, a small but healthy colony of *P. australis* was found within Aboriginal land near Kempsey (Macleay River), on the New South Wales mid north coast. The site was heavily weed-infested and sections of the local Aboriginal community are now maintaining the area and protecting the orchids.

The NSW Government Scientific Committee, in its recovery plan for this species, records that there are currently about 14 known populations of this orchid in the State, noting that most have only a few individuals. They estimate a total of only about 180 plants known in the wild. They state the main threats are from land clearing and the illegal collection of plants. As orchid enthusiasts regard the species as one of the most desirable species for their collections and exploitation of the wild populations is a continuing and constant threat. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the species is likely to become extinct in nature in NSW unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.

The exact location of these Kempsey plants remains secret, but thankfully their numbers are on the increase. A couple of years ago, the Aboriginal elders presented two nurserymen – Hans Schaible of Dark Star Orchids and Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchid Nursery with a division each off two separate clones. This was so they could be artificially propagated, with genuine plants ultimately made available to orchid enthusiasts as well as the potential for the reintroduction of plants into the wild.

The Tinonee plant, known as *Phaius australis* 'Jidaanga' is growing very strongly and flowered in October 2010. Ray Clement took the photographs that are shown with this article, which I thank him for. The spent flower stems were sent to a specialist laboratory in Thailand for mass production via tissue culture off the dormant eyes on the fleshy inflorescence. Lab reports have confirmed that this was successful with flasks of mericlones expected within 12 months.

It is hoped that the first batch of young plants will be available to orchid growers towards the end of 2013. Thereby they will have an exact replica of the plant in the accompanying photographs from a known location (Kempsey, NSW), now regarded as the verified southern point of its distribution. Furthermore, they will be genuine Australian plants, that can be confidently benched and subsequently judged in the native orchid species classes at shows and meetings. As current examples benched as Australian plants are highly suspect and of doubtful origin. Furthermore, orchid judges, and show marshals once and for all should no longer accept *Phaius tancarvillei* as an Australian species.

This example highlights the fact that sometimes the best way of saving a rare plant species is to enlist the help of a professional nurseryman.

David Banks

Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



Above: *Phaius tancarvillei*
(photo: D. Banks)



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- Jun 16-19....Parramatta & District Orchid Society Show - Winston Hills Mall
- Jun 25-26....Mingara Orchid Fair
- Jul 10.....TINONEE ORCHIDS OPEN DAY & SHOW**
- Jul 31.....Hills District Orchids - Winter Open Day - Northmead
- Aug 12-14...National Orchid Extravaganza - Dural
- Aug 19-21...St. Ives Orchid Fair
- Aug 26-28...Melbourne Orchid Spectacular & Victorian International Orchid Fair Springers, Keysborough
- Sep 3-4.....Speciosum Spectacular - Kempsey
- Sep 8-11.....Australian Springtime Flora Festival - Mt Penang
- Sep 17-18...Orchids in the Wetlands - Newcastle
- Sep 22-24...Parramatta & District OS Spring Clivia & Orchid Show - Winston Hills Mall
- Sep 25.....Hills District Orchids - Spring Open Day - Northmead
- Oct 1-3.....South & West Regional Show & Conference - Nowra
- Oct 7-9.....Southern Orchid Spectacular - Cronulla
- Nov 5-6.....Gold Coast - Tweed Orchid Fair
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Australian Orchid Foundation Award of Honour to Dr Mark Clements

Dr. Mark Clements was awarded the Australian Orchid Foundation Award of Honour for 2010 at its Annual General Meeting in October 2010. Mark's work with orchids has been outstanding, he has devoted his entire professional career to orchids, the majority of which being Australasian.

Mark has been employed at the Australian National Botanic Gardens since the mid-1970s where he commenced his study and research in orchids, especially Australian species. Continuing on from the research of Dr Jack Warcup in SA, he was able to isolate mycorrhizal fungi from numerous orchid species, using these isolates to successfully germinate rare and endangered species, one notable success being *Diuris fragrantissima* which at that time was on the verge of extinction. Mark was seconded to Kew Gardens, England to assist them to isolate fungi from a range of European terrestrials to help in their conservation, including the rare Lady's Slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus*. He continued his work on raising orchids from seed on his return to Australia, having success with many difficult to germinate species.

While in England, Mark studied the type collections of as many Australian species that he could find which resulted in many not always popular name changes and the publication of the *Catalogue of Australian Orchidaceae* in 1989.

Mark continued his studies, being awarded his PhD in 1996 following detailed studies into the embryology and protocorm structure of Diurideae and related primitive orchids at the Australian National University, Canberra.

His interest in the relationship between orchid groups and hence taxonomy has led to the description of many new species and he has studied in detail the large genera *Dendrobium* and *Bulbophyllum* which has resulted in new classifications of the groups.

Mark has been involved in the conservation of many rare species, the most recent of which has been the eastern Underground orchid, *Rhizanthella slateri* and its relocation from a threatened site near Bulahdelah, NSW

Mark has been very willing to share his knowledge, training many students, giving papers at scientific gatherings and talks to orchid societies. Mark has been a member of the Research Committee of the Australian Orchid Foundation for more than 20 years.



Mark Clements
with the very rare
Dackrillia caudiculata
from Papua New Guinea
(photo D. Banks)

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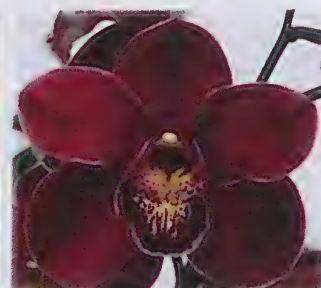
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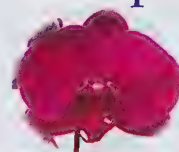
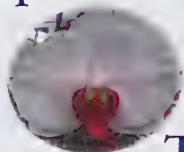
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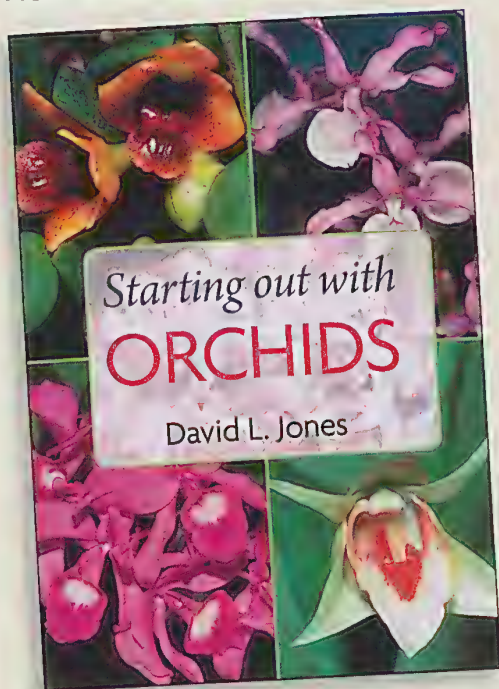
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Book Review with
AOR Editor David Banks



Starting out with ORCHIDS

By David L. Jones

ISBN: 9781877069680

Published by New Holland Publishers (Australia)
210mm x 148mm softcover with clear plastic cover
240 pages, over 250 colour photographs
RRP \$29.95

I must admit right from the start that I am a huge fan of the wide range of botanical and horticultural books written over the past few decades by David Jones. He has been arguably one of Australia's most prolific, precise and respected authors on a full range of the Australian flora, including ferns, cycads, palms, Australian plants in general (including his opus 9-part *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants* – co-authored with Rodger Elliot) and obviously orchids. David (along with colleague Mark Clements) has been heavily involved with the science, systematics and taxonomy of Australian orchids and between them have described hundreds of new species.

I certainly have a preference for his larger, and more detailed strictly botanical reference works, however he has also authored a number of more general guides that have a wider appeal for the broader gardening community. This new book, *Starting out with Orchids*, is a neat and well laid out and compact illustrated book of 240 pages that provides a wonderful introduction to orchids for the person recently lured to our hobby. It focuses on easy-to-grow and collectable orchids for your glasshouse and shadehouse.

The photographs are wonderful, clear and fresh, and there are over 250 of them. These have predominantly been taken by the author as well as from the slide collections of the late Ron Tunstall, the late Gerald McCraith, Alan Stephenson and Mark Clements. Many of the more commonly encountered varieties are obviously included, as are a number of species rarely illustrated in orchid books – such as *Bulbophyllum leucothyrsus*, *Cynorchis compacta*, *Dendrobium bulbophylloides*, *Eria maboroensis*, *Grastidium summerhayesianum*, *Paphiopedilum papuanum* and *Vanda alpina*.

The naming conventions in orchids, especially at generic level has become more and more of a minefield over the past decade or so, sadly without much consensus. This book

attempts to use both new and old names, but in doing so may confuse and somewhat frustrate the reader. Tropical American genera such as *Cattleya*, *Epidendrum*, *Laelia* and *Pleurothallis* have been readily embraced and left alone however we see a much different treatment regarding *Dendrobium*. Interestingly the *Dendrobium* treatment within this book covers species from many different and varied taxonomic Sections (or splinter genera), yet there are also separate entries for segregates such as *Dockrillia* and *Grastidium* (which I am in total agreement with) as well as *Durabaculum* and *Thelychiton*.

In similar fashion, a number of relatively “unfamiliar” Australian terrestrial genera are presented without giving their botanical origins in the text. Such as *Arachnorchis* (previously included within *Caladenia*), *Corysanthes* (within *Corybas*) and *Diploidium* (within *Pterostylis*). Thankfully these alternate names are cross-referenced at species level in the index. Incidentally, I wouldn't be recommending many of these specialist Australian deciduous terrestrials for novice growers!

Single quotes are used for all hybrid grex epithets in the book. This is wrong and goes against the rules of botanical nomenclature as it relates to orchids. This has been done within the genera *Angraecum*, *Coelogyne*, *Sarcochilus* and *Thelychiton* (*Dendrobium*).

Unfortunately there are a few misidentifications or duplications regarding the photographic captions. *Vanda coerulea* is also misspelt (as *caerulea*). I am probably being a bit pedantic here, but such books ideally should be 100% correct, but this in no way detracts from the overall theme and intent of the text. However it would be remiss of me not to point these errors out.

Page #	Caption in book	DPB Comments
59	<i>Epidendrum radicans</i>	Is the primary intergeneric hybrid <i>Epiphronitis</i> Veitchii
117	<i>Maxillaria picta</i>	Both are examples of <i>Maxillaria porphyrostele</i>
120	<i>Oncidium incurvum</i>	(transposed) is <i>Oncidium robustissimum</i>
120	<i>Oncidium robustissimum</i>	(transposed) is <i>Oncidium incurvum</i>
120	<i>Oncidium ornithorhynchum</i>	Now recognised as being <i>Oncidium sotoanum</i>
122	<i>Paphiopedilum villosum</i>	Is the primary hybrid <i>Paphiopedilum</i> Nitens
141	<i>Aerides fieldingii</i>	<i>Aerides rosea</i> is the earlier accepted name
166	<i>Coelogyne pandurata</i>	Is the primary hybrid <i>Coelogyne</i> Burfordiense
187	<i>Eria javanica</i>	Doubtful as being this taxon
190	<i>Grastidium axillare</i>	Same plant as <i>Grastidium igneum</i> on page 191
208	<i>Oncidium varicosum</i>	This is a hybrid featuring that species
214	<i>Pleurothallis aphthosa</i>	Misidentified, this is <i>Restrepiella ophiocephala</i>

The book is divided in two parts. Part One begins with the cultivation chapters, covering Easy Orchids for Beginners, General Cultivation Requirements, Growing Epiphytic Orchids, Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Orchid Pests and Diseases, Housing Your Orchids and Propagating Your Orchids. The information contained within these pages alone is required reading for all beginners through to experienced orchid growers. The text is very easy to read and understand with numerous sound cultivation tips and treatments discussed. There are many excellent and clear line illustrations that help describe terms or highlight diagnostic features.

Part Two begins on page 46 and is the main purpose of the book, where we are treated to the orchids themselves with concise discussion on each species. They are grouped primarily according to climatic requirements, starting with cool growing orchids progressing to the warm growers, in alphabetical

sequence first with terrestrial genera, followed by the epiphytes. Both Australian and exotic species are treated together. For each entry there is specific detailed information on each species, as well as a simple table giving the basic cultivation needs and flowering season.

Thank you to Gil Teague of Florilegium – The Garden Bookstore at Glebe NSW (Phone 02-95718222 or email florilegium@tpg.com.au) and Reed New Holland for the review copy. As a special for AOR subscribers, Florilegium are offering readers a special introductory offer of \$24.95 on the book until the end of July 2011. This represents terrific value and would make an important addition to the orchidists's library and also a wonderful gift for that person just bitten by the orchid bug.

David Banks

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FLORA'S ORCHIDS

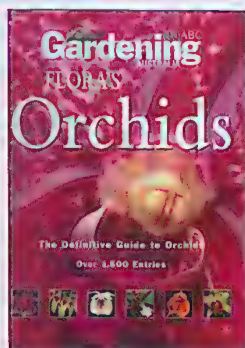
Senior Consultant David P. Banks

Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

368 pages, colour.
308mm x 238mm.
Hardcover.

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ANGRAECOID ORCHIDS: Species from the African Region by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell

These so-called 'Jewels of Africa' with their flowers, distinctive growth habit and their much prized and this account of the angraecoid orchids of the African region, is long awaited. It brings together a group of orchids and provides a reference for all angraecoid orchid growers to come. Stewart, Herman and Campbell have all spent time in various parts of eastern and southern Africa and precise ecological information on the preferences and flowering season of individual plants will be of great value to growers. The diagnostic features of each genus are illustrated and over 100 species are accompanied by exquisite photographs taken in both wild habitats and in cultivation. The authors know the angraecoid orchids well, both in cultivation and the wild, and this knowledge has led to an authoritative account of these interesting plants.

432 pages, colour.
265mm x 185mm.
Hardcover.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some species that would require artificial heating in winter. This volume covers a further 314 species, including 344 colour photographs. It is recommended to all orchid fanatics and growers who wish to see an orchid in flower that they could grow.

132 pages.
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ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN How to grow orchids in the backyard by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

144 pages.
Colour and B&W.

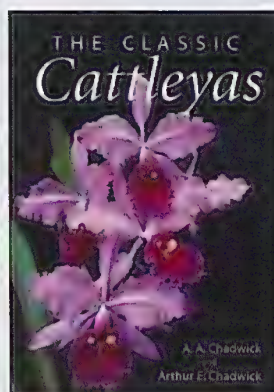
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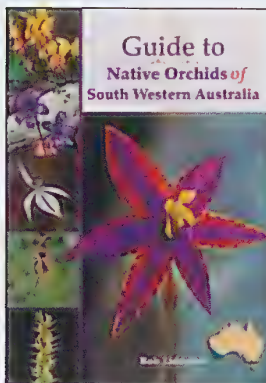
THE CLASSIC CATTLEYS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

252 pages, colour.
260mm x 185mm.
Hardcover.

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A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA by Bob Liddelov

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelov has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

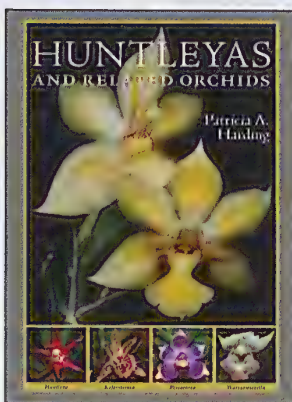
This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

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colour throughout.
210mm x 148mm.
Softcover.

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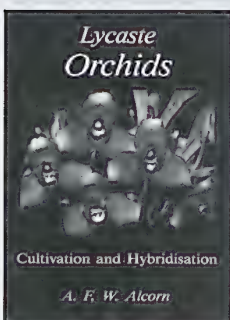
HUNTLEYAS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya melegaris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships

and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

260 pages, 150 colour
photos. Hardcover.

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

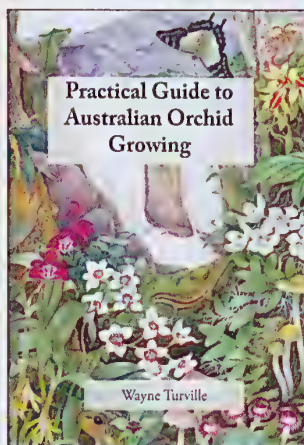
The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages.
Colour and B&W.



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PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia — specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcochilus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

64 pages, colour.
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Malaxis lawleri



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Vale – Len Lawler

16/12/1925 - 11/2/2011

by Bill Lavarack

Len Joseph Lawler passed away on 11th February 2011 in Cairns after a long illness and the Australian orchid community lost one of its favourite sons. Len was well known in orchid circles through his talks at meetings and conferences and by his writing. I first met Len in 1969 at the 6th World Orchid Conference in Sydney. At the time he was working in the Biochemistry Department of the University of Sydney. I got to know him well in 1981 when he organised an Orchid Symposium as a satellite of the 13th International Botanical Congress which was held in Sydney that year.

Len gained his fellowship of the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists with a thesis titled *Biochemical Investigation of Australian Orchidaceae* and later was Chairman of the Federal Executive of AIMS. He was involved in a University project which was testing for the presence of alkaloids in orchids and this took him in 1967 to the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea with Andree Millar and Alick Dockrill. In 1984 he made his mark in orchidology at the world level with his epic study titled *Ethnobotany of the Orchidaceae* which was published in Joseph Arditti's *Orchid Biology Reviews and Perspectives Volume 3*. This paper is 123 pages long and includes over 1000 references – a clear indication of the

work that went into its making. It remains the definitive work on the subject. He made regular contributions to the *Australian Orchid Review* on many topics including a series titled "Looking Back" in which he highlighted events described in old copies of the *Australian Orchid Review*. Len also produced some interesting historical research on orchid identities such as Jack Wilkie, Ken MacPherson, Claude Le Roy and Alf Glindermann. In all he wrote over 30 scientific and popular articles on orchids.

In 1986 after retiring from the University, Len and his wife Kate moved to Atherton, and a few years later to Tolga. He joined the Atherton Tableland Orchid Society and held many positions over the years including President. Len became very well known in Queensland running an AOF sponsored project to catalogue and record the occurrences of rare orchids. Notable among his discoveries was *Malaxis lawleri* which he found near Cooktown and which was named in his honour.

Len was influential in the early days of the Australian Orchid Foundation which was established in 1976. He conceived the idea for a seed bank and was the first curator. He served on the Research Committee for many years and was chairman from 1981 to 1986. In December 1999 I had the great privilege

of presenting him with an Award of Honour from the AOF. This was fitting as Len had been instrumental in nominating several other Award of Honour recipients.

Len had wide interests and had a good library on many topics including (of course) orchids, history, anthropology and archaeology. He was always interesting to be with and was well informed on many topics. A great companion in the bush or at an orchid society meeting, he will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Thanks to Bruce Gray for the photographs of *Malaxis lawleri*. ■

Bill Lavarack

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Open Day – Wamberal NSW

April 8-10 Sydney International Orchid Fair
(www.orchidfair.com.au) – Castle Hill Showground, NSW

April 16-17 Collector's Plant Fair
(www.collectorsplantfair.com) – Bilpin NSW

May 19-22 Orchids Out West
– Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon NSW

May 21-22 6th Orchid and Garden Oasis Expo
– Southport Qld

June 10-12 TQOC Conference and Show – Bowen Qld

June 16-19 Parramatta & District Orchid Society Show
– Winston Hills Mall NSW

June 25-26 Mingara Orchid Fair – NSW

July 10 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show
– Tinonee NSW

July 31 Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day
(feat. Easy Orchids) – Northmead NSW

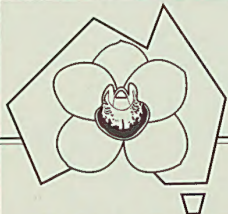
August 12-14 National Orchid Extravaganza
– Dural NSW

August 19-21 St Ives Orchid Fair – NSW

August 26-28 Melbourne Orchid Spectacular
& Victorian International Orchid Fair – Keysborough Vic

October 1-2 South & West Regional Conference & Show
– Nowra NSW

October 7-9 Southern Orchid Spectacular
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Phone 0359773122 Email Preferred Open Saturday retail

Mon - Fri By appointment



Cymbidium for 2011

Just a taste from \$8.80



Gene Siskel 'Lucy'



Pendulous Cymbidium
Bellissimo 'Pure'



Yellow River 'Fleurijn'



Valley Torch 'The Lip'



Wyong Flame 'Dural'



Phaf Lap



Radiant Ruby 'Aussie Gem'



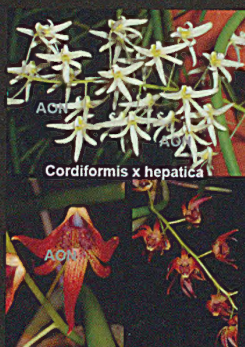
Hiroshima 'Pink Temptation'



'Geyserland'

Natives for 2011

Just a taste from \$7.00



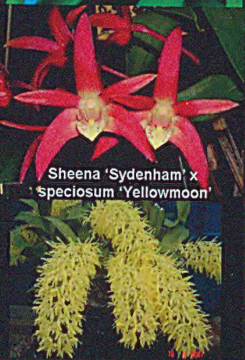
ACW
Cordiformis x hepatica



Moondarra 'Alan Blee'



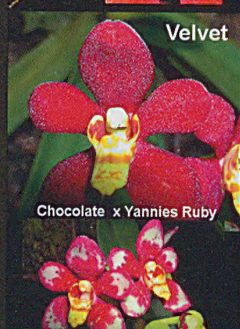
DENDROBIUM AUSTRALIAN
RHUBARB 'BLAST' MERICLONE



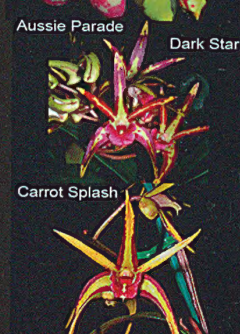
Sheena 'Sydenham' x
'Speciosum' 'Yellowmoon'



Rhinochilus lewisii
'Red Pineapple'



Velvet



Chocolate x Yannies Ruby



Aussie Parade

Dark Star



Carrot Splash



fleckeri

Remember ! All our best orchids are auctioned on Ebay weekly